

# NEWS EXTRA

## Plan turning out to be more than a fish story

By Steve Fidel Deseret News staff writer

The drive along U.S. 40 between I-80 and Heber will be much different five or six years from now, if Jordanelle Dam is completed on schedule.

Instead of traveling along the valley floor flanked by acre after acre of pasture, motorists will travel along the west side of a mountain ridge, following the shore of a reservoir created by construction of Jordanelle Dam by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Hailstone Junction, a familiar landmark and popular fishing spot on the Provo River, will be inundated by the reservoir. People who used to stop on U.S. 189 at the junction to either turn left to get to Heber or right toward Salt Lake City will travel a new road as well, one on the north side of the ridge above Jordanelle's eastern arm. And a new ski resort west of the reservoir will link the valley with resorts in Park City.

The bureau is anxious to prove its decades-old plan to build Jordanelle Dam, the principal feature of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project, is more than just a fish story. The bureau and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District have stepped up construction plans for the dam. Work is scheduled to begin next summer, and the reservoir should start to fill in 1991 or 1992, if Congress doesn't close its purse before then.

Forecasting what Jordanelle will be like is a task bureau officials have spent years researching. Some significant details are yet to be decided, al-

The west end of the dam, according to the current plan, would meet the side of the canyon just north of a rock outcropping bearing a painted American flag that has been a familiar landmark for years.

The reservoir would have a surface area of 3,068 acres when it is full and would store 320,000 acre-feet of water, about twice the capacity of Deer Creek Reservoir, 10 miles to the south.

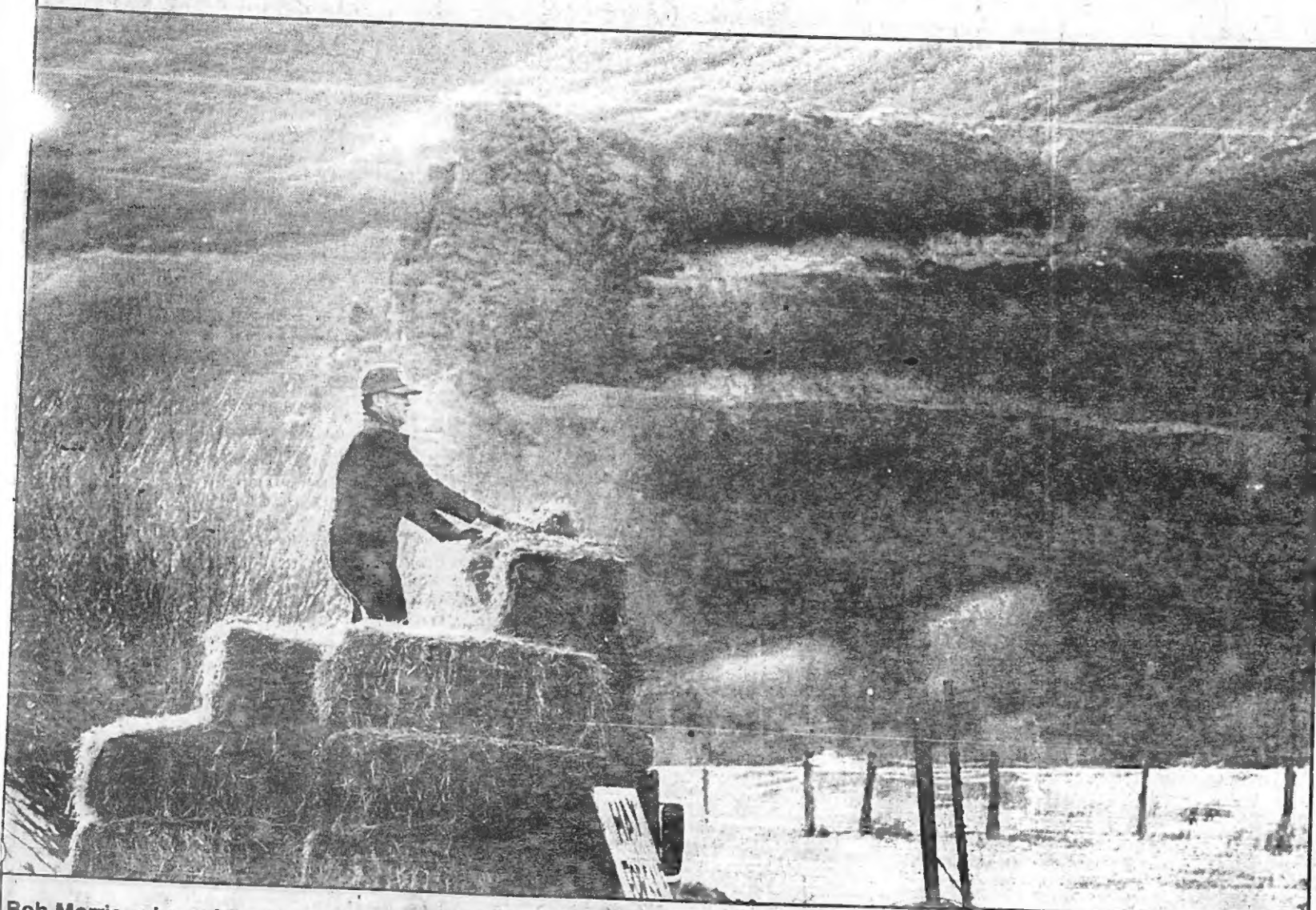
With a stretch of the imagination, the reservoir, as seen from the air, could be said to resemble a dragon squatting on its haunches facing west with a long, thick tail pointing east.

The shape of the reservoir would change slightly as it goes through various stages of filling and draining, but it is generally characterized by a section that runs north and south along the Keetley valley, with an east-west arm along the Provo River.

Jordanelle Reservoir could fill in one season if Utah had a repeat of the flood year of 1983. It is more reasonable to expect the reservoir to take three to five years to fill, said R. Jay Henrie, Jordanelle planning team leader for the BOR.

For safety reasons, BOR dam designers in Denver don't want the reservoir to fill too quickly. Dam safety officials would monitor the dam around the clock while the reservoir fills in harmony with standards established after the BOR's Teton Dam burst while filling in 1976.

Water that would be stored behind the dam



Bob Morris, whose farm has been in the family four generations, stacks hay for sale. Engineers made cuts beyond.

PHOTOGRAPHY/TOM SMART

# Jordanelle

## A look into the future

though excavation at the damsite is scheduled to begin next summer.

Jordanelle Reservoir's contour is easy to predict by comparing the maximum proposed water level, 6,166 feet above sea level, with the known topography. The reservoir would have an eastern arm along the Provo River that would stretch a little more than four miles east from the dam, and a wider northern arm that would also be a little more than four miles long.

the dam would be gleaned through a complex system of switches and surpluses.

Between 10 and 15 percent of the water that would flow into the reservoir during an average year would be surplus water on which no one in the Provo River system has a claim. The availability of that water is unpredictable. In wet years like 1983 there would be plenty of it.

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